

**Service Academy Nomination Application
CLASS OF 2031**

The deadline to submit a complete application is:

Friday, October 30, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. (Arizona Time)

Applications open on October 1, 2026, and a complete nomination packet is due by Friday, October 30, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. (Arizona Time). Early and late submissions will not be accepted. Contact the Surprise District office at (623) 776-7911 or with any questions regarding the application process.

A fully complete packet must be physically submitted in person or through the mail by the candidate or their representative. Incomplete or partial packets will result in disqualification from consideration. Once a packet is submitted no changes or alterations will be accepted. Only qualified applicants will be invited to participate in the interview process, those that do not meet the submission requirements will not receive notification or status updates.

Note: We encourage each applicant to also *apply for a nomination with both of the U.S. Senators offices as well. Please contact each of those offices to find out their academy nomination process as all congressional offices have a different nomination process and deadline dates.*

Please address all information to:

Congressman Abraham J. Hamadeh
Attn: Academy Nomination Packet
12515 W. Bell Road
Suite 104
Surprise, AZ 85378

U.S. Service Academy Nomination Checklist

___1) I certify that I am a legal resident of the State of Arizona and a resident of **Arizona's 8th Congressional District**. I do not reside in another congressional district and have checked my residency utilizing this website <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>. **(This does not apply to United States Merchant Marine Academy applicants)**

___2) Statement of Purpose

One page essay discussing in 500 to 600 words why you are interested in attending a U.S. Service Academy. (APA format 7th, Arial, 12-point font)

___3) High School and/or College Transcript

Official Transcripts preferred, unofficial copy will be accepted if signed by school official.

___4) SAT and/or ACT Test Scores

A copy of SAT or ACT scores. Be sure that your official scores are sent to the academies you are applying to. Only official scores will be accepted screenshots, printouts, copies or photos of your score will not be accepted

___5) Three Letters of Recommendation

Only three letters will be accepted; please do not send more than three. Suggested recommendations:

- *Letter of recommendation 1 (Community - Leadership)*
- *Letter of recommendation 2 (Educator - Academic Merit)*
- *Letter of recommendation 3 (Candidates' choice - Character)*

Note: The letters of recommendation must be submitted with the entire applicant nomination packet, letters directly sent to the office will not be accepted.

___6) Resume

Include all working history, you may include clubs, athletics organizations, community service, academic awards, etc. Resume may not exceed two pages and should be written in black arial 12 font.

___7) Photo

*Please include a recent 5x7-color photograph with your legal name written legibly on the back. Photo must be an actual photograph printed on 5x7 **photograph paper**.*

___8) Written Essay

An essay answering these 3 questions: (APA 7th format, Arial, 12-point font)

1 - All commissioned officers serving in every branch take this oath of office below. Describe what this oath of office means to you, and how the oath represents a sacred pledge that aligns with America's founding principles of limited government and individual freedom.

"I, [name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

2 - Military officers are entrusted with the distinguished honor and solemn responsibility of command. What is your command philosophy, and which core values have most influenced its development?

3 - What does patriotism mean to you, and how should it be demonstrated by those who serve in uniform?

____9) Leadership Essay (APA 7th format, Arial, 12-point font)

Choose a leader or public figure you find inspiring. Describe who this individual is, the qualities or actions that make them admirable in your eyes, and how those qualities influence your own approach to leadership and service. In your response, explain why their example resonates with you personally and how it reflects the values you hope to uphold as a future officer. (APA format, Arial, 12-point font)

List Academy Choices in Order of Preference

List **ALL service academies** that you wish to receive consideration for a nomination to. Please list in order of preference.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Academies which require nomination from a member of Congress:

U.S. Air Force Academy

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Military Academy

U.S. Naval Academy.

Please be sure you have opened a file at all the academies you would consider attending. Our office cannot submit a nomination to an academy if you have not started an application.

Please indicate here if also seeking a nomination through the office(s) of:

Senator Gallego: _____

Senator Kelly: _____

Please Read Before Signing:

I have read the information explaining the nominating procedure and am familiar with the requirements. I certify that I am a legal resident of the State of Arizona and a resident of **Arizona's 8th Congressional District**. If I have not submitted all the necessary data by October 30, 2026, deadline, I understand that I will not be given final consideration for a nomination.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Minimum Qualifications for a Nomination

- At least 17 but not yet 23 years old by July 1st of the year to be admitted to the Academy.
- No older than 25 years old to enter the Merchant Marine Academy.
- Must be a U.S. citizen and legal Arizona resident of the congressional district they apply with when entering the Academy.
- Unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation for the support of a dependent.
- Minimum Sat or ACT scores that are determined by the perspective Military Academy to which you have applied.

Congressman Hamadeh may nominate up to ten individuals from his district per vacant slot. Nominations to service academies will be made on a fully competitive basis. The selection of these nominees will be determined by high school scholastic records, ACT/SAT test scores, letters of recommendations, essay submissions, and a personnel interview with our nominating committee.

Interviews will be **in person** and take place in December 2026, at the Congressman's Arizona District office. Qualified candidates selected for an interview will be notified as far as possible in advance of their interview times. Only exceptions for online interview are those who are **verified** as a dependent of a United States Government employee or a United States Military service member stationed overseas. Applicants that are overseas for other situations or circumstances that prevent them from attending in-person interviews must contact the office to determine their eligibility. Exceptions are granted at the sole discretion of the office staff to ensure an equal and fair process for all applicants.

Please pay attention to the essay format requirements, following precise directions is a strong indicator of potential military service and academic potential, failure to comply will result in an applicant's disqualification for consideration.

Each packet must be submitted in **FULL COMPLETION** and in **PHYSICAL FORM** by October 30, 2026. Packets received after this time will **NOT** be eligible for consideration.

Packets may **NOT** contain any additional paperwork or items that are not included on the checklist above. Additional elements will **NOT** be considered in the application process.